

**Remarks**

Claims 2-7, 9, 11, 16, 19, 20, 27 and 28 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7, 9, 11, 16, 19, 20, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshimura et al. (US 6,291,094 B1) (hereafter, "'094"). Each of independent claims 27 and 28 recites a filler member located in a concavity defined between two plates, the member being electrically conductive and effective to bond the two plates to one another. While '094 shows spaces 500 between two plates and mentions that "spaces 500 may also be filled with an electrically conductive paste," there is no suggestion that the electrically conductive paste is effective for bonding the two plates. Accordingly, the '094 reference cannot support the asserted rejection, since the reference is silent at least as to the noted feature.

Furthermore, the '094 reference fails to suggest an outer exposed coating layer formed on at least one of the plates and in contact with the at least one of the plates as recited in claims 27 and 28. Instead, in '094, an intermediate layer 65 is interposed between a plate 65 and an outer exposed layer 64.

Accordingly, claims 27 and 28 are allowable over '094. Moreover, claims 2-7 depend on claim 27 and therefore include the recitations of claim 27, and claims 9, 11, 16, 19 and 20 depend on claim 28 and therefore include the recitations of claim 28. Therefore, dependent claims 2-7, 9, 11, 16 and 19 are allowable over '094 for at least the reasons discussed in connection with independent claims 27 and 28. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-7, 9, 11, 16, 19, 20, 27 and 28 as anticipated by '094 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 27 were further rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Cisar et al. (US 6,426,161) (hereafter, "Cisar"). Each of the noted claims includes the features discussed above and is accordingly allowable over Cisar. More specifically, Cisar is completely silent with regard to a filler member located in a concavity defined between two plates, the member being electrically conductive and effective to bond the two plates to one another, or an outer exposed coating layer formed on at least one of the plates and in contact with the at least one of the plates as

required by the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5, 7 and 27 as being anticipated by Cisar is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cisar in view of Walsh (US 6,096,450). Claim 5 depends on claim 27 and therefore includes its features. Cisar does not suggest the features of claim 27 as discussed above, and Walsh is similarly deficient. For example, like Cisar, Walsh does not suggest a filler member located in a concavity defined between two plates, the member being electrically conductive and effective to bond the two plates to one another, or an outer exposed coating layer formed on at least one of the plates and in contact with the at least one of the plates as required by the claim 27. Therefore, claim 5 is allowable over Cisar and Walsh for at least the reason discussed in connection with claim 27.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 as unpatentable over Cisar in view of Walsh is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 27 were further rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilkinson et al. (US 5,521,018) (hereafter, "Wilkinson") in view of Adlhart (US 4,175,165). Along lines discussed previously, the combination of Wilkinson and Adlhart do not suggest a filler member located in a concavity defined between two plates, the member being electrically conductive and effective to bond the two plates to one another, or an outer exposed coating layer formed on at least one of the plates and in contact with the at least one of the plates as required by the noted claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5, 7 and 27 as unpatentable over Wilkinson and Adlhart is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilkinson in view of Adlhart and further in view of Cisar. Withdrawal of the asserted rejection is respectfully requested for at least the reason that the combination of Wilkinson, Adlhart and Cisar fail to suggest a filler member located in a concavity defined between two plates, the member being electrically conductive and effective to bond the two plates to one another, or an outer exposed coating layer formed on at least one of the plates and in contact with the at least one of the plates as required by claim 6.

Claim 6 was further rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilkinson in view of Adlhart and further in view of Wilson et al (US 6,037,072).

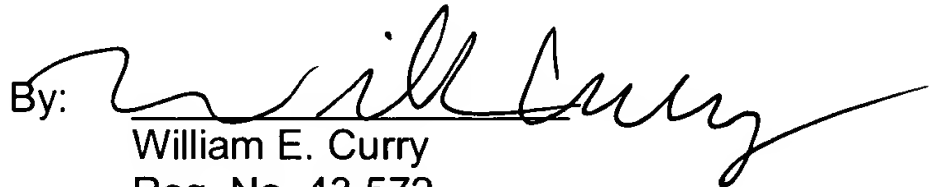
Withdrawal of the asserted rejection is respectfully requested for at least the reason that the combination of Wilkinson, Adlhart and Wilson et al. fail to suggest a filler member located in a concavity defined between two plates, the member being electrically conductive and effective to bond the two plates to one another, or an outer exposed coating layer formed on at least one of the plates and in contact with the at least one of the plates as required by claim 6.

In light of the above discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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